

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-16. (Canceled)

Claim 17. (Withdrawn/Currently Amended) A method for establishing a gap between a femur and a tibia at a knee joint, comprising:

providing an instrument having a positioning member that defines (i) a femur facing side, (ii) a tibia facing side, and a guide slot configured to receive an ~~intramedually~~ intramedullary member by movement of the guide slot relative to the intramedullary member along an axis substantially parallel to at least one of the femur facing side and tibia facing side, said positioning member including a first coupler;

providing an augment having a second coupler configured to cooperate with the first coupler to connect the augment to the positioning member;

coupling the second coupler of the augment to the first coupler of the positioning member so that the augment and the positioning member are attached together;

providing an intramedullary member;

disposing the intramedually member within an intramedually canal of the tibia;

and

locating the positioning member and the augment within the gap defined between the femur and the tibia while the augment and the positioning member are attached together so that (i) the femur facing side of the positioning member faces the femur, (ii)

the tibia facing side of the positioning member faces the tibia, and (iii) the intramedurally member is received within the guide slot of the positioning member of the instrument.

Claim 18. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 17, wherein:

the first coupler of the positioning member includes a bore having a resilient O-ring positioned therein,

the second coupler of the augment includes a pin,

the coupling step includes inserting the pin into the bore so that that the pin comes into frictional contact with the O-ring, and

the locating step includes locating the positioning member and the augment within the gap while pin is in frictional contact with the O-ring.

Claim 19. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18, wherein:

the bore defines an internal groove, and

the O-ring is positioned within the internal groove during the locating step.

Claim 20. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 17, wherein:

the first coupler of the positioning member includes a bore,

the second coupler of the augment includes a pin,

the coupling step includes inserting the pin into the bore, and

the locating step includes locating the positioning member and the augment within the gap while pin is located within the bore.

Claim 21. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 17, wherein:

the coupling step includes attaching the augment to the femur facing side of the positioning member, and

the locating step includes locating the positioning member and the augment within the gap while augment is attached to the femur facing side of the positioning member.

Claim 22. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 17, wherein:

the coupling step includes attaching the augment to the tibia facing side of the positioning member, and

the locating step includes locating the positioning member and the augment within the gap while augment is attached to the tibia facing side of the positioning member.

Claim 23. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 17, further comprising securing a resection guide having a first mating feature to the femur, wherein:

the instrument further includes a connector member having a second mating feature, and

the locating step includes mating the second mating feature of the connector member with the first mating feature of the resection guide.

Claim 24. (Currently amended) A system for establishing a gap between a femur and a tibia at a knee joint, comprising:

an instrument having (i) a positioning member that defines a femur facing side and a tibia facing side, said positioning member including a first coupler, and (ii) a connector member having a first mating feature;

an augment having a second coupler that cooperates with said first coupler to fix said augment to said positioning member abutting either said femur facing side or said tibia facing side; and

a femoral resection guide having a second mating feature that mates with said first mating feature of said instrument, the instrument, augment, and femoral resection guide configured such that when the system is assembled and the femoral resection guide is positioned on a femur, the instrument and the augment span a gap between the femur and a tibia.

Claim 25. (Previously presented) The system of claim 24, wherein:

said first coupler of said positioning member includes a bore having a resilient O-ring positioned therein, and

said second coupler of said augment includes a pin that is in frictional contact with said O-ring.

Claim 26. (Previously presented) The system of claim 25, wherein:

said bore defines an internal groove, and

said O-ring is positioned within said internal groove.

Claim 27. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 24, wherein:

said first coupler of said positioning member includes a bore, and

said second coupler of said augment includes a pin that is received within said bore.

Claim 28. (Currently Amended) A system for establishing a gap between a femur and a tibia at a knee joint, comprising:

an instrument having a positioning member that includes a first coupler, said positioning member defining (i) a femur facing side, (ii) a tibia facing side, and (iii), a guide slot configured to receive an intramedullary pin;

an augment having a second coupler that cooperates with said first coupler to fix said augment to said positioning member abutting either said femur facing side or said tibia facing side; and

an intramedullary pin received within said guide slot of said positioning member of said instrument by movement of the guide slot relative to the intramedullary pin along an axis substantially parallel to at least one of the femur facing side and tibia facing side.

Claim 29. (Previously presented) The system of claim 28, wherein:

said first coupler of said positioning member includes a bore having a resilient O-ring positioned therein, and

said second coupler of said augment includes a pin that is in frictional contact with said O-ring.

Claim 30. (Previously presented) The system of claim 29, wherein:

said bore defines an internal groove, and

said O-ring is positioned within said internal groove.

Claim 31. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 28, wherein:

said first coupler of said positioning member includes a bore, and

said second coupler of said augment includes a pin that is received within said bore.

Claim 32. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 28, wherein said instrument further has a handle extending from said positioning member.

Claim 33. (Previously presented) The system of claim 24, wherein:

the tibia facing side is generally planar;

the augment includes an upper surface and a lower surface; and

the upper surface of the augment abuts the tibia facing side when the augment is fixed to the positioning member.

Claim 34. (Previously presented) The system of claim 33, wherein the lower surface is contoured.

Claim 35. (Previously presented) The system of claim 28, wherein:

the guide slot extends from the femur facing side to the tibia facing side and opens to a front portion of the positioning member;

the augment includes an upper surface and a lower surface; and

an augment slot extends from the upper surface to the lower surface and opens to a front portion of the augment, the augment slot positioned such that when the augment is fixed to the positioning member (i) the upper surface of the augment abuts the tibia facing side and (ii) the augment slot is aligned with the guide slot.

Claim 36. (Previously presented) The system of claim 28, wherein:

the tibia facing side is generally planar;
the augment includes an upper surface and a lower surface; and
the upper surface of the augment abuts the tibia facing side when the augment is fixed to the positioning member.

Claim 37. (Currently Amended) A system for establishing a gap between a femur and a tibia at a knee joint, comprising:

an instrument having (i) a positioning member that defines a femur facing side and a tibia facing side, said positioning member including a first coupler, and (ii) a connector member having a first mating feature;

an augment having a second coupler that cooperates with said first coupler to fix said augment to said positioning member; and

a femoral resection guide having a second mating feature that mates with said first mating feature of said instrument,

wherein said first coupler of said positioning member includes a bore having a resilient O-ring positioned therein, ~~and~~

said second coupler of said augment includes a pin that is in frictional contact with said O-ring, and

the instrument, augment, and femoral resection guide are configured such that when the system is assembled and the femoral resection guide is positioned on a femur, the instrument and the augment span a gap between the femur and a tibia.

Claim 38. (Previously presented) The system of claim 37, wherein:

said bore defines an internal groove, and

said O-ring is positioned within said internal groove.

Claim 39. (Previously presented) The system of claim 37, wherein:

the tibia facing side is generally planar;

the augment includes an upper surface and a lower surface; and

the upper surface of the augment abuts the tibia facing side when the augment is fixed to the positioning member.

Claim 40. (Previously presented) The system of claim 39, wherein the lower surface is contoured.

Claim 41. (Currently Amended) A system for establishing a gap between a femur and a tibia at a knee joint, comprising:

an instrument having a positioning member that includes a first coupler, said positioning member defining (i) a femur facing side, (ii) a tibia facing side, and (iii), a guide slot configured to receive an intramedullary pin;

an augment having a second coupler that cooperates with said first coupler to fix said augment to said positioning member; and

an intramedullary pin received within said guide slot of said positioning member of said instrument by movement of the guide slot relative to the intramedullary pin along an axis substantially parallel to at least one of the femur facing side and tibia facing side,

wherein said first coupler of said positioning member includes a bore having a resilient O-ring positioned therein, and

said second coupler of said augment includes a pin that is in frictional contact with said O-ring.

Claim 42. (Previously presented) The system of claim 41, wherein:

said bore defines an internal groove, and

said O-ring is positioned within said internal groove.

Claim 43. (Previously presented) The system of claim 41, wherein said instrument further has a handle extending from said positioning member.